

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for establishing communication between a master computer system and one of a plurality of slave computer systems coupled to a common communication channel, said method comprising:

A | a master computer system directing a single session request, by a master computer system, to all of a plurality of slave computer systems all coupled to through a common communication channel; receiving and responding to the session request by to cause all of the plurality of slave computer systems to change from a receive mode to an answer mode in which all of the plurality of slave computer systems are in communication with the master computer system via the common communication channel;

after the plurality of slave computer systems responds, the master computer system thereafter transmitting on the common communication channel a second requesting, by the master computer system, to establish communication with only a particular slave computer system among the plurality of slave computer systems; and

after the master computer system transmits the second requests to establish communication with the particular slave computer system, the master computer system maintaining communication with between the master computer system and only the particular slave computer system among the plurality of slave computer systems via the common communication channel.

2. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein requesting, by the master computer system transmitting a second request, to establish communication with the particular slave computer system further comprises:

assigning an unique identification number to each of the slave computer systems; and

using the unique identification number, by the master computer system, to establish the communication with identifying the particular slave computer system in the second request by a unique identifier.

3. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 2, ~~wherein using the unique identification number, by the master computer system, to establish the communication with the particular slave computer system and further comprising~~ comprises:

storing ~~the~~ a respective one of a plurality of unique identifiers ~~identification number~~ into within a non-volatile memory device of each of the plurality of slave computer systems; and

storing the unique identification number of ~~for~~ each of the plurality of slave computer systems ~~and an identity of the slave computer systems associated to the unique identification number into a table that is stored in a memory device of the master computer system; and~~

sending a request from the master computer system with the unique identification number of the particular slave computer system.

4. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein maintaining ~~only the communication between the master computer system and the particular slave computer system~~ further comprises:

maintaining connection of the master computer system and the particular slave computer system ~~as both being connected to the common communication channel; and~~

disconnecting all other slave computer systems except the particular slave computer system from the common communication channel.

5. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

while maintaining ~~after communication is established between the master computer system and the particular slave computer system, using the master computer system~~ issuing commands to ~~command~~ the particular slave computer system.

6. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein directing the session request, ~~by the master computer system, to the plurality of slave computer systems through the common communication channel~~ further comprises:

directing the session request, by the master computer system, to the plurality of slave computer systems through a serial communication channel.

✓ 7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1 [[7]], wherein ~~responding to the session request and~~ maintaining communication between the master computer system and only the particular slave computer system further comprises:

maintaining the communication switching device for the particular slave computer system in the answer mode; and

~~setting returning the communication switching device for~~ each of the other slave computer systems from the answer mode ~~back~~ to the receive mode.

9. (currently amended) A method for establishing communication between a master computer system and a particular one of a plurality of slave computer systems all and ~~a master computer system~~ coupled to a common communication channel, said method comprising:

each of the plurality of slave computer systems receiving and responding, by a slave computer system, to a session request from a master computer system on the common communication channel;

in response to receipt of the session request, each of the plurality of slave computer systems changing from a receive mode to an answer mode in which all of plurality of slave computer systems are in communication with the master computer system via the common communication channel;

the plurality of slave computer systems thereafter receiving via the common communication channel a second request containing a unique identifier of a particular slave computer system among the plurality of slave computer systems;

~~determining, by the slave computer system, whether the session request is for the slave computer system;~~

in response to the second session request, the particular ~~being for the slave computer system;~~ maintaining communication between with the master computer system in the answer mode and ~~only the slave computer system;~~ and in response to ~~the session request not being for the slave computer system;~~ each other slave computer system not identified by the unique identifier in the second request disconnecting from communication between with the master computer system and returning to the receive mode ~~the slave computer system.~~

10. (currently amended) A system ~~for establishing~~ supporting communication between a master computer system and a particular one of a plurality of slave computer systems ~~and a master computer system~~ all coupled to a common communication channel, said system slave computer system comprising:

a common communication channel;

a slave processor, a slave memory device, and a communication device plurality of slave communication devices all coupled to the a common communication channel ~~but wherein the communication device is able to couple to a common communication channel;~~

wherein, responsive to a master device transmitting a session request on the common communication channel, each of said plurality of slave communication devices ~~the communication device receives and responds to a~~ the session request by changing from a receive mode to an answer mode in which all of plurality of slave computer systems are in communication with the master computer system via the common communication channel ~~from a master computer system; and~~

wherein responsive to thereafter receiving via the common communication channel a second request by the master computer system containing a unique identifier of a particular slave computer system among the plurality of slave computer systems, the particular slave computer system maintains communication with the master computer system in the answer mode and each other slave computer system not identified by the unique identifier in the second request disconnects from communication with the master computer system and returns to the receive mode

~~wherein the slave processor determines whether the session request is for the slave computer system;~~

~~wherein, in response to the slave processor determining that the session request is for the slave computer system, the slave processor maintains communication between the master computer system and only the slave computer system; and~~

~~wherein, in response to the slave processor determining that the session request is not for the slave computer system, the slave processor disconnects communication between the master computer system and the slave computer system.~~

11. (currently amended) The system according to Claim 10, wherein:

each of the plurality of slave computer systems is assigned an a respective one of a plurality of unique identifiers identification number that can is able to be used by the master computer system to establish the communication with the that slave computer system.

12. (currently amended) The system according to Claim 11, wherein:

the slave memory device further comprises each of the plurality of slave computer systems has a respective non-volatile memory device and that stores the respective the unique identifier of that slave computer system identification number is stored into the non-volatile memory device.

✓ 13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) The system according to Claim 10, wherein:

after communication is established between the particular slave computer system and the master computer system, the particular slave computer system receives and executes commands from the master computer system.

15. (original) The system according to Claim 10, wherein the common communication channel is a serial communication channel.

✓16. (canceled)

✓17. (canceled)

A1 18. (currently amended) A program product for establishing communication between a master computer system and a particular one of a plurality of slave computer systems all and a master computer system coupled to a common communication channel, said program product comprising:

a computer usable medium;

a control program encoded within the computer usable medium that performs and having the steps of:

each of the plurality of slave computer systems receiving and responding, by a slave computer system, to a session request from a master computer system on the common communication channel;

in response to receipt of the session request, each of the plurality of slave computer systems changing from a receive mode to an answer mode in which all of plurality of slave computer systems are in communication with the master computer system via the common communication channel;

the plurality of slave computer systems thereafter receiving via the common communication channel a second request containing a unique identifier of a particular slave computer system among the plurality of slave computer systems; and

in response to the second request, the particular slave computer system maintaining communication with the master computer system in the answer mode and each other slave computer system not identified by the unique identifier in the second request disconnecting from communication with the master computer system and returning to the receive mode

determining, by the slave computer system, whether the session request is for the slave computer system;

~~in response to the session request being for the slave computer system,
maintaining communication between the master computer system and only the slave
computer system; and~~

~~in response to the session request not being for the slave computer system,
disconnecting communication between the master computer system and the slave
computer system; and
computer usable media bearing said control program.~~

✓19. (canceled)

✓20. (canceled)

AI 21. (original) The program product according to Claim 18, wherein said control program further
~~comprises~~ performs the step of:

after ~~establishing~~ communication between the particular slave computer system and the
master computer system is established, receiving and executing, by the particular slave computer
system, commands from the master computer system.

✓22. (canceled)

✓23. (canceled)

24. (new) The method of Claim 9, wherein and further comprising:

after communication between the particular slave computer system and the master
computer system is established, receiving and executing, by the particular slave computer
system, commands from the master computer system.

25. (new) The method of Claim 10, wherein the common communication channel is a serial
communication channel, and wherein:

receiving the session request comprises receiving the session request via the serial
communication channel; and

receiving the second request comprises receiving the second request via the serial communication channel.

26. (new) A master computer system for selectively establishing communication with a particular one of a plurality of slave computer systems coupled to a common communication channel, said master computer system comprising:

#1 means for directing a single session request to all of a plurality of slave computer systems all coupled to a common communication channel to cause all of the plurality of slave computer systems to change from a receive mode to an answer mode in which all of the plurality of slave computer systems are in communication with the master computer system via the common communication channel;

means for thereafter transmitting on the common communication channel a second request to establish communication with only a particular slave computer system among the plurality of slave computer systems; and

means for, after the master computer system transmits the second request to establish communication with the particular slave computer system, maintaining communication with only the particular slave computer system among the plurality of slave computer systems via the common communication channel.

27. (new) The master computer system of Claim 26, wherein said means for transmitting a second request comprises means for transmitting a second request containing a unique identifier identifying the particular slave computer system in the second request.

28. (new) The master computer system of Claim 26, and further comprising:

means for, while maintaining communication between the master computer system and the particular slave computer system, issuing commands to the particular slave computer system via the common communication channel.

29. (new) The master computer system of Claim 26, wherein directing the session request further comprises:

directing the session request, by the master computer system, to the plurality of slave computer systems through a serial communication channel.

30. (new) A program product for selectively establishing communication between a master computer system and a particular one of a plurality of slave computer systems coupled to a common communication channel, said program product comprising:

a computer usable medium;

a control program encoded within the computer usable medium that causes the master computer system to perform the following steps:

directing a single session request to all of plurality of slave computer systems all coupled to a common communication channel to cause all of the plurality of slave computer systems to change from a receive mode to an answer mode in which all of the plurality of slave computer systems are in communication with the master computer system via the common communication channel;

thereafter transmitting on the common communication channel a second request to establish communication with only a particular slave computer system among the plurality of slave computer systems; and

after the master computer system transmits the second request to establish communication with the particular slave computer system, maintaining communication with only the particular slave computer system among the plurality of slave computer systems via the common communication channel.

31. (new) The program product of Claim 30, wherein transmitting a second request comprises transmitting a second request containing a unique identifier identifying the particular slave computer system in the second request.

32. (new) The program product of Claim 26, wherein said program product further causes the master computer system to perform the step of:

while maintaining communication between the master computer system and the particular slave computer system, issuing commands to the particular slave computer system via the common communication channel.

33. (new) The program product of Claim 26, wherein directing the session request further comprises:

directing the session request, by the master computer system, to the plurality of slave computer systems through a serial communication channel.